GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5341
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2002
ARSENIC MENACE IN WEST BENGAL
BASUDEB ACHARIA

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of arsenic menace in West Bengal and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government of West Bengal has approached the Union Government for financial assistance to combat this menace; and

(c) if so, the action taken so far in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) A project proposed by the Government of West Bengal with the objective to study the nature, extent and cause of arsenic pollution was sanctioned by the Union Government under the aegis of Technology Mission at an estimated cost of Rs. 19.82 lakh.

Four schemes have so far been sanctioned with financial participation of 75:25 between the Central and State Government respectively. Out of this, the first phase action plan at an estimated cost of Rs. 858.33 has been completed. Malda Surface Water Project at an estimated cost of Rs. 8848 lakh has been partially commissioned. South 24 Parganas Surface Water Project at an estimated cost of Rs. 23284 lakh has been taken up. The second phase action plan at an estimated cost of Rs. 1733 lakh has been taken up for execution. A scheme for supplying surface water to 4 blocks of North 24 Parganas district has been taken up for execution at an estimated cost of Rs. 124.82 lakh.

Besides, the Central Ground Water Board has approved three schemes for implementation, two under its Pilot Central Sector Scheme on "Studies of Recharge to Ground Water" at a cost of Rs. 18.96 lakh and one for R&D study on causes, effects and remedial measures of arsenic contamination in ground water in parts of West Bengal at a cost of Rs. 21.00 lakh.